

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury Convicts Former Christian County Housing Authority Maintenance Superintendent of Defrauding Government

Springfield, IL -- A jury deliberated approximately one hour this morning, November 14, 2006, before returning 12 guilty verdicts against Thomas G. Adcock, Jr., age 56, of Pana, Illinois. The United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Rodger A. Heaton, announced that the jury found Adcock, the former maintenance superintendent for the Christian County Housing Authority, guilty of six counts of wire fraud, three counts of fraudulently obtaining federal funds from Housing and Urban Development, and three counts of filing false documents with the government. U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott scheduled sentencing for January 22, 2007.

The trial began Monday, November 6, 2006, in federal court in Springfield, with jury selection and opening statements. Over the next three days, the government presented evidence to show that from 1999 to 2001, Adcock used his position with the Christian County Housing Authority to bid and receive a contract to provide painting services to the Authority in the name of "A+ Maintenance." At that time, evidence showed that Adcock led the Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners and others to believe that A+ Maintenance was owned by an unrelated third party. For approximately two years, Adcock prepared and submitted invoices in the name of A+ Maintenance for work performed in painting units. Many of these invoices contained double-billings for work which had already been paid by the Authority.

Evidence was also presented to show that Adcock, who was responsible for checking the work on behalf of the Housing Authority, approved invoices submitted in the name of A+ Maintenance, without disclosing that he was operating under a conflict of interest. As a result, Adcock received more than \$72,000 from HUD, through the Housing Authority, as payment for the invoices.

At sentencing, each offense of wire fraud and filing false documents with the government is punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$250,000 or a combination of both. The maximum penalty for each offense of fraudulently obtaining federal funds is ten years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000 or a combination of both.

The charges were the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick D. Hansen.

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